

November 8, 2001

Aviation Security: Modeled on the INS?

On November 1, 2001, the House passed The Secure Transportation for America Act (H.R. 3150) by a bi-partisan vote of 286-139. The House bill would put the federal government in charge of setting standards for and overseeing baggage and passenger screening at airports but would allow flexibility in hiring private contractors to do the actual screening. In arguing for total nationalization of aviation security, **Democrats asserted that we should model aviation security on our nation's border security.**

As many as 10 of the 19 hijackers involved in the September 11th terrorist attacks had expired visas. Those individuals who do not leave the country after their visas have expired represent 40% of the 5 million illegal immigrants currently in the U.S.

--*Washington Times* report by Jerry Seper, November 7, 2001

The man who got past security at O'Hare with seven knives, a stun gun, and tear gas is a Nepalese citizen whose student visa had expired.

--*Associated Press* report, November 7, 2001

"Violent criminal aliens have been deported from the United States without the required escorts on commercial flights, posing a potential danger to the traveling public, the Justice Department's inspector general said on Thursday. Inspector General Glenn Fine announced the results of a review that found that managers at three of four U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) districts disregarded the escort procedures in 1999 and 2000."

--*Reuters* story by James Vicini, *June 14, 2001*

Several hundred thousand illegal aliens are estimated to settle permanently in the U.S. annually.

--*Steven Camarota, American Enterprise Magazine, December 2000*

Growth of the INS: \$1.5 billion and 18,000 staffers in FY1993
\$5.0 billion and nearly 34,000 staffers in FY2001

--*Congressional Research Service, Report RS20279*

"We must make sure that our airports are like our borders."

--*Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Congressional Record, Page H7596, 11/1/01*

"Do we not feel safer that our borders are protected by the United States Border Patrol and United States Customs Service?"

--*Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL), Congressional Record, Page H7619, 11/1/01*

"We need to federalize our airport security. We do not contract out our security for people who work for the INS.... Why then would we contract out for airline security?"

--*Rep. Hilda Solis (D-CA), Congressional Record, Page H7621, 11/1/01*

"Do you feel that the current system has failed the American people and should be replaced with Federal law enforcement professionals protecting our airports, just as they protect...America's borders? If so, then vote for the [Democrat] substitute."

--*Rep. Martin Frost (D-TX), Congressional Record, Page H7620, 11/1/01*